



newsletter

12 December 2019

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Thank you to everyone who made our 2019 Fireworks Extravaganza a success. Particularly our PTA and the major sponsors;

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Thank you St Mary's families for your generosity contributing to the Reverse Advent Calendar - Giving what we can.

Week 9: Toiletries and treats
Week 10: Dry food, water, drinks, or anything.

Our People Our Place

be. informed

[oxforddictionaries.com / informed.](http://oxforddictionaries.com/informed)

adj: having or showing knowledge of a subject or situation.

Kia ora koutou katoa,

My name is James Murray and I am extremely honoured and humbled to have been appointed as your new principal, starting at the beginning of 2020.

I am married to Karla and we are the very proud parents of 4 boys; Callum (14), Hamish (12), Vaughan (10), Lachlan (9). They are very excited about their move to Tauranga, as the 3 older boys were born in the sunny Bay. I was raised in Wellington, and as a family, we are very much looking forward to coming back to Tauranga and enjoying all the wonderful outdoor opportunities it provides.

Having previously taught at St. Mary's Catholic School Tauranga, upon my arrival back from overseas, I know that St. Mary's is a high performing, vibrant learning environment, that is absolutely dedicated to providing holistic Catholic education our children require.

I wish to acknowledge the previous and current work of the school, the Board of Trustees, school leadership team, teaching and support staff, and the school community for the strong leadership, pastoral care and quality teaching that St. Mary's has offered and continues to provide. It remains most important that we acknowledge the ethnicities and cultures that are 'our people, in our place'!

I come to you from St. Joseph's Fairfield, in Hamilton, where I have been Principal since October 2012. Before that appointment I was Principal of St. Mary's Gisborne for 3 years. I have a strong commitment to Catholic education and my own personal faith comes from a strong Catholic upbringing. As my family and I make the transition to St. Mary's Tauranga, I am aware of the anticipation of a new Principal arriving. I want to celebrate with everyone, all the wonderful opportunities that St. Mary's provides, and work strategically with all stakeholders to continue to develop our wonderful children in their faith and learning.

Communication is an integral part of leading a school, and this is something our team will continue to work at to keep you well informed. I also believe that working collaboratively is the best way to innovate new ideas and solve problems together. The partnerships we create, that are focussed on the best outcomes for children, will come from our strong home-school relationship.

Being part of a community is exceptionally important to me and my family. I am a firm believer in the need to establish and maintain strong relationships and partnerships with all stakeholders in the St. Mary's community. The St. Mary's School community and Board of Trustees can expect me to consistently act in the best interests of our learners, staff and community. I will dedicate myself to making sure I am enthusiastic, innovative, and a compassionate leader, who will serve this community with passion and integrity.

I am excited at the journey and what lies ahead for all of us. I look forward to getting to know the students, staff, the community and Parish of St. Mary's.

Ngā manaakitanga

James Murray



Congratulations to our Jump Jam National Champions!



The Wastelanders

2019 Dates

Friday 13 December

- Whakapono Kayaking 9am - 10.30am
- Whanau Cochrane Ten Pin Bowling 10.30am - 12.30am
- Sports/Arts Recognition Hui 1.30pm - 2.30pm

Tuesday 17 December

St Mary's Prizegiving Trinity Church 11am

Wednesday 18 December

Whakapono End of Year Fun Day

9am - 1.30pm

Thursday 19 December

- Tika End of Year Celebration - Estuary and swimming 9am - 1pm

Friday 20 December

- School closes at 12noon
- Sell, swap uniforms 12noon - 12.30pm in the BAMJC

2020 Dates to remember

Monday 27 January

Auckland Anniversary Holiday

Friday 31 January

Ra Whanau Mai - Meet the teacher

Monday 3 February

School starts at 8.50am

Thursday 6 February

Waitangi Day - school is closed

2020 Term Dates

Term 1

Friday 31 January - Thursday 9 April

Term 2

Tuesday 28 April - Friday 3 July

Term 3

Monday 20 July - Friday 25 September

Term 4

Monday 12 October - Thursday 17 December

End date to be confirmed

2019 School Magazine

The St Mary's magazine is a wonderful record of the 2019 school year. All classrooms are represented again this year and what we have seen so far looks stunning! You still have time to order your copy today. Order forms are available from the school office. Magazines are \$25 each.



Father Rico

Congratulations to Father Rico on your new appointment as Parish Priest of St Mary's Opoiki at the end of January. We wish you well and will miss your humour and welcoming smile. Father Rico recently baptised Olivia Lily. Olivia, you are now a child of God. May God bless you and your family Olivia.



Advent

During the four weeks of Advent, we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth through prayer and reflection and we look for practical ways to observe the holiness of the season in our everyday lives.

I ngā wiki e whā o te Aweneti, māte karakia me te whakaaroaro ka whakariterite tātou i a tātou māte kaupapa nui, arā te whānautanga mai o te Karaiti, ā ia rā, ia rā ka rapu tātou i ngā tikanga hei whakanui i tānei wā tapu. Get your advent calendar here..

<http://bit.ly/2qlbIXs>

Cluny Foundation Charitable Trust

The Cluny Foundation is a Charitable Trust established to assist and advance students and other members of the St Mary's Catholic community in Tauranga.

Specifically, the purpose of the Trust is to help students who are in need of assistance to enable participation in educational and extracurricular activities.

During 2019 the Trust has been able to assist with;

- *Cultural and sporting enrolment and tuition fees.
- *Purchasing of essential equipment for sporting and cultural pursuits.
- *Access to and provision of specialist personnel and support.

We are seeking applications for grants for 2020.

The trustees will be meeting late January to determine allocations for all of 2020. If you would like to make an application then please write a detailed email to;

cluny@stmarystga.school.nz.

If you have any questions regarding the application criteria and /or guidelines and criteria please do not hesitate to make contact with Sally Washer swasher@stmarystga.school.nz or cluny@stmarystga.school.nz

Donations to the Cluny Foundation

As some of our families are completing their schooling at St Mary's they may consider and wish to make a donation the Cluny Foundation to assist and grow members of our future community to reach their full potential.

The Foundation would be extremely grateful for any donations received. The Trustees are excited about helping and assisting more of our community in 2020.

Kelly Quin, Sally Washer, Ben Fuller,
Trustees of the Cluny Foundation

The Onza Tauranga Marimba Festival

The annual ONZA Tauranga Marimba Festival was recently held at the Queen Elizabeth Youth Centre. What an amazing concert it was with so many children playing marimbas and other instruments from music based on Ranginui - the Sky. The St Mary's Concert Band performed beautifully. Leo Gray played an impressive solo on

the vibraphone for 'Thunderstruck' by AC/DC. Another highlight was Vani Panchal playing recorder and Serrie Park playing the Kalimba in a lovely piece called 'Matariki' by Erina Hemingson.

Mrs Mayall was in the audience - her little son Xavier sang 'Twinkle, twinkle little Star' as a delightful finish to an arrangement of this well known piece that ourschool violinists also played in.

It was one of those nights where everyone could share in the joy that music gives us. Special thanks to the parents and teachers who helped transporting the children and instruments. A big, big thank you to members of the concert band. You were a credit to your parents, St Mary's School and yourselves!

Cherrie Leefe (Instrumental Tutor) nza Tauranga Marimba Festival



Prize Giving

Tuesday 17 December

You are all warmly invited to join us for our end of year Prize Giving on Tuesday 17 December held at the Holy Trinity Church in Devonport Road.

By now you will have been contacted by your child's classroom teacher if he/she will be receiving an award.

Rā Whānau Mai 2020

On Friday 31st January 2020, St Mary's will open for Rā Whānau Mai (Family Welcome Day). This is a family open day and is a great opportunity for you, as parents and whānau, to share your expectations, your child's interests, strengths, and learning needs and the knowledge you value, directly with your child's teacher. There will be a coffee cart and a lunchtime sausage sizzle. More information will come home shortly regarding how to book interview times with your child's class teacher.



The Shakers



The Funksters

Sushi Orders

The last day for sushi orders will be on Thursday 19 December. Orders must be at the office by 3pm on Wednesday as normal.



The library is closed. Please return all library books and home readers to school as soon as possible.

Parking Reminder

Please do not park obstructing the driveways of residents living near our school.

CHOOSE SAFETY OVER CONVENIENCE.

Silverion Camp

Silverion is a fantastic new Catholic summer camp which is running in Hamilton Diocese at Tyburn Monastery, Ngakuru with Bishop Steve's blessing from the 17th-19th January 2020. Silverion is a unique Catholic medieval fantasy adventure camp for boys and girls ages 8-16. This camp aims to help young boys and girls embrace their baptismal call to be disciples and the light of the world. The camp begins on Friday afternoon and finishes on Sunday midday. We do ask your prayers for this initiative as we are starting this summer camp during the mission month of Pope Francis! For more information go to: <https://silverioncamps.com/>

Battle of the Bands

Congratulations to our St Mary's Junior Fuse who came 2nd place in the Junior section of the Battle of the Bands!



The Troupers

Aquinas College PTA Cookbook

'From Our Kitchen' is a new cookbook recently produced by the Aquinas College PTA. This beautiful quality cookbook is full of family favourites, must-have recipes and stories that reflect our community and is now available making it the perfect Christmas gift for 2019! To see a preview of some of the recipes visit the Aquinas College Facebook page 'Aquinas College PTA Friends'. Books will be on sale after Mass on Sunday 15th and Sunday 22nd, at Pak n Save Tauriko, My Pharmacy Papamoa and from the St Mary's school office. Proceeds from the sale of the book will go to the wide range of initiatives, projects and events that the PTA supports in the college including the pastoral care programme and the Year 13 Fiji Service Trip. \$39.95ea, \$70 for two!



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